News-item, "Eight in Bhuj lose eyesight after surgery"

500. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Eight in Bhuj lose eyesight after surgery", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 18th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the findings of four-member Inquiry Committee which was supposed to submit its report within 48 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This issue was inquired from the State Government of Gujarat and according to their report, facts are as under:—

An expert team consisting of an ophthalmologist and a microbiologist visited the site and submitted a preliminary report. This was followed up by a report on 17th June, 2002 from an expert committee of four members which included:—

1. Dr. D.H. Bhatt, Additional Director Medical Services, Government of Gujarat.
2. Shri S.P. Adeshra, Commissioner, Food & Drug Control Administration, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
3. Prof. (Ms) Tanuja Javleker, Microbiology Department, Medical College, Rajkot, Gujarat.
4. Prof. J. Ajani, Regional Institute and M. & J. Institute [Ophthalmology], Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The findings of the Inquiry Committee are as under:—

* Basic Examination not followed properly.
* Slit Lamp bio-microscope was not used though provided and found to be in working order.
* Antiseptic solution was not adequately used.
* Operation Theatre was not fumigated properly.

* Not permissible operation theatre articles like wooden OT table, benches, stools, chairs were used in operation theatre.
* Autoclaving procedure followed was grossly faulty and far from any established standard for the same.
* Operative notes regarding steps adopted were not available on case papers.
* Early detection of infection and prompt treatment was not offered to the beneficiaries as they were discharged earlier.

On receipt of the report the following action was taken by the State Government of Gujarat:

1. Guidelines issued for OT Care and Post-Operative Care to all Ophthalmic Surgeons.
2. A training programme has been prepared for ophthalmic surgeons and OT staff.
3. The services of ophthalmic surgeon responsible for this incident have been terminated.
4. Senior Staff Nurses responsible for fumigation is being transferred.

Reimbursement of expenditure on hospitalisation

501. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that entire expenditure on account of hospitalisation of retired and serving Government officials in private hospitals is not reimbursed by CGHS despite the fact that their cases are referred by the CGHS for treatment/operation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Delhi High Court has recently passed stricture against CGHS in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action being taken by Government in this regard?